

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor :Akira TAKAHASHI

Serial No. :Concurrently Herewith

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Title :SHELL-TYPE NEEDLE ...

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**S I R:**

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification as follows: